

VOL. VI.--NO. 252.

HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1887.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

THE DAILY

Commercial

18 PUBLISHED

Every Morning Except Sundays.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

DAILY P. C. ADVERTISER, one year	6	00
DAILY P. C. ADVERTISER, three months	À	90
DAILY P. C. ADVERTISER, per month		50
WEEKLY P. C. ADVERTISER, one year	(B)	UU

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CHARACTERISTICS OF CRIMINALS

Natural Peculiarities of European Murderers and Thieves.

Recently in France considerable attention has been paid to an examination of the criminal class with reference to its physical and associated characteristics. M. Lacassague has drawn attention to the frequency of tattooing among criminals and the violent nature of the scenes depicted by them in this voluntary mutilation. The same writer has pointed out that criminals, as a class, are tall. Thus in 800 subjects examined by him 623 were taller by six centimeters than the average, and some exceeded the normal height by ten and twenty centimeters. These observations were corroborated by M. Ferri, in Italy. In 1882 Dr. Manouvrier remarked that among criminals, notoriously with murderers, the jaw is more developed than is usual; and that while the craniomandibular index normally varies between 12.8 and 13, among the convicts

it attains the remarkable number of 14.7. MM. Hager and Dallemagne, in a comparative study of the skulls of assassins and ordinary persons, have confirmed the statement that the forward projection of the skull is greater among the former. They have also shown that criminals have a larger facial index and a smaller vertical index than the peaceable citizens, but no difference is observed in the cephalic index.

M. Hager has affirmed the larger capacity of the criminal skull over that of the usual type, the relative proportions being as 1,53% is to 1,490. This, however, has been contradicted by a cumber of observers who claim the reverse, but it is suggested that it may be explained by supposing that the former examined the crania of murderers only, while in the latter studies those of all classes were included, among which the incendiaries are said to have small heads. Mr. Flesch has said that affections of the heart exist among criminals to the extent of 20 per cent.; the persistence of Botal's orifice, 10 per cent.; contradiction of the vascular system, 5.5 per cent. But his researches upon cerebral

He has demonstrated a certain atavism in the cerebral convulsions, already indicated by Benedikt, as, for instance, the medium lobe of the brain being shaped as among the mammals, the separation of the eulcarian fissue of Sylvius, and the formation of an operculum of the occipital lobe. Histology has also detected certain anomalies in the brains of those criminals whose autopsy has been made. Thus Spika has found the pigmentation of the nucleum of the tenth, seventh, and fifth pairs in a murderer's brain; also Golgi and Marchi have detected the pigmentation of the nervous cells in the brain of a convict.

lesions are much more important.

M. Mano has examined the hands of riminals, and he has discovered among adividuals convicted for murder, among nose guilty of inflicting wounds, a great reponderance of large and short hands; hile with thieves the frequency of long d narrow hands is less considerable. to the question of tattooing he finds at the larger number of tattooed peris among the assassins and assail-

Lombraso, together with M. Mano, studied criminality among infants. examined 980 infants, and espey 160 from the houses of refuge. y found that the criminal type could recognized at that age, assoed with bad tendencies, in the proion of 7.4 per cent. The loss of a al sense was recognized in 10 per . Out of twenty-nine infants they e observed the disappearance of the hinal tendencies partly through nonritance, partly under the beneficial tence of their surroundings, and ly because their criminal passions, ting at a certain period, disappear

taturity. The typical criminal physiognomy has een recognized among murderers in Germany in the proportion of 36 per cent., among thieves to that of 24 per cent., among insolvents, and in persons convicted of bigamy to the extent of 6 per cent. Among females this type was found in 28 per cent. With ordinary men and women this type was only found fourteen times among 815 individuals, eight of whom were doubtful. -[New York Telegram.

In these days of convenient photographing appliances, those who visit in any official capacity scenes of murder, wreck or riot should apply the camera before anything is disturbed, as the evidence thus gained, being incontrovertible, might possess incalculable value. -[Practical Photographer.

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